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**Stereotypes vs. Generalizations**

*While all stereotypes are generalizations, not all generalizations are stereotypes!*

*Stereotypes are oversimplifications of people groups (usually negative), that are widely circulated in certain societies and usually include words such as “all” or “everyone” instead of “many” or “some;” or definitive, emphatic statements of any kind which infer that everyone in the culture has a certain characteristic.*

*Generalizations use qualifying words such as “tend to”, “typically,” and “often.” They do* ***not*** *imply that everyone in the culture has a certain characteristic. It is important to choose your words carefully. Your desire to learn more about the culture will sound much more authentic if you resist the temptation to exaggerate and stereotype.*

*Here’s a good example of the difference between stereotyping and generalizing:*

*“****Women sure are second class citizens in Japan.” (stereotype, use of “women sure are”)*** *vs.*

***“It doesn’t seem that women are treated equally to men in employment; for example, women are often required to make tea because of their gender.” (generalizaton, use of “it doesn’t seem”, and “ for example”.)***

***The extra detail*** *in the generalized statement makes it preferable to the stereotyped statement. You haven’t concluded anything yet, but a pattern seems to be emerging from the information you are getting about Japan. It allows your listener to see what the generalization is based on and can lead to further discussion about whether your assumption is accurate or not.*

*(From Maximizing Study Abroad, Regents of the University of Minnesota)*

***Time for an exercise!*** *Profe Pickett or Frau Spring will give you a worksheet called “Differentiating Stereotypes and Generalizations.” Find a partner, follow the directions and work together. Remember what you have learned about the differences between them and do your best! Your participation is worth 5 points. Profe and Frau will be circulating around the room to check your progress. When you are finished, check your work.*

***HOMEWORK:*** *This concept is so important there is homework tonight! It is on the back of the worksheet you just did in class.*

*You need to take a look at some stereotypes of Americans, how they make you feel and figure out how to make generalizations out of them instead.*

*10 pts--due tomorrow*

*In the meantime, check out the picture below on the next page! *

*How do you feel about these stereotypes? Write your reactions on a piece of scratch paper for discussion in a few minutes.*

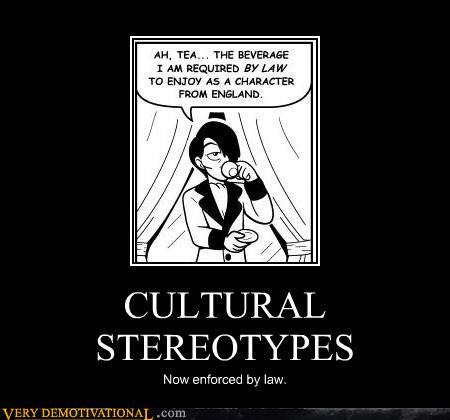
A. B.



C. D.

How about these images below? Do these stereotypes surprise or shock you? Some stereotypes are even offensive.

(Brits love to drink tea!)



Arabs are terrorists.



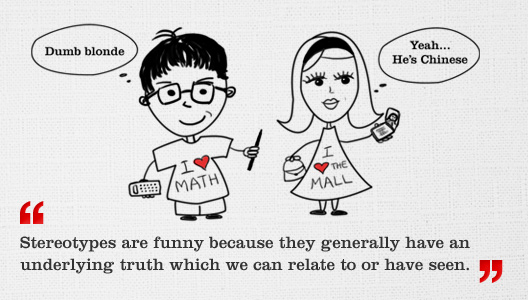
French people wear berets and drink wine and eat lots of cheese and bread!





Indians (not Native Americans!) wear traditional costume and work in customer relations for American companies.

The Chinese love math, but blonde American women only know how to shop.



However, we cannot apply that what we have experienced or seen to all people in that people group (nationality, ethnicity, gender).

It just isn’t true for everyone!

(So don’t assume it.)